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BROWNBACK WORKS TO END MARRIAGE PENALTY TAX

WASHINGTON – U.S. Sen. Sam Brownback spoke on the Senate floor today, pressing for the elimination of the marriage penalty tax.

“It is of critical importance that during the second session of the 106th Congress we take steps to eliminate the marriage penalty,” Brownback said.

“The marriage penalty currently effects almost 50% of America’s families. Causing them, on average, to pay an additional \$1,400 in taxes every year simply because they are married.

“The Congressional Budget Office has announced that the expected on-budget surplus for FY 2000 is \$23 billion. The on-budget surplus is expected to grow even more in the future.

“We need to begin making an investment in America’s families – using the on-budget surplus to rid the tax code of this unfair tax is one way to make such an investment.

“When marriage as an institution breaks down, children suffer. The past few decades have seen a huge increase in out-of-wedlock births, and divorce, the combination of which has substantially undermined the well-being of children in virtually all areas of life: physical and psychological health, socialization, academic achievement, and even the likelihood of suffering physical abuse.

“Study after study has shown that children do best when they grow up in a stable home, raised by two parents who are committed to each other through marriage. Newlyweds face enough challenges without paying punitive damages in the form of the marriage tax. The last thing the federal government should do is penalize the institution that is the foundation of a civil society.

“The surging surplus is the result of non-payroll tax receipts. In other words, the surplus is really a tax overpayment to the government (personal income and capital gains taxes). We must give the American people the growth rebate they deserve and return this overpayment in the form of marriage penalty elimination.

“I believe we can, and we must start now to rid the American people of the marriage tax penalty,” Brownback said.